

Investigator's Report

Detective-in-Training

Case Information

Investigator's Name: _____ Date: _____

Case File #: 002 _____

Case Name: Fossil Types _____

Location: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO _____

Observations:

After looking at some of the fossils found at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, you can see that there are differences between the redwood stumps and the delicately preserved insects and leaves. Take some time to make note of these differences. Did you notice that the insects and leaves appear to be flattened between layers of shale while the redwood stumps look like trees turned into rock? What other differences do you see?

Questions and Hypotheses

Formulating hypotheses is an important step in your investigation. Your attempts to answer the questions will guide your search for evidence. Write a hypothesis for each question below. Remember to write the hypothesis as an answer to the question, with as much detail as possible. You should be able to test each hypotheses to see if it is true or false.

1. What are the differences between the redwoods stumps and the plant and insect fossils?

2. How are each of these fossils preserved?

3. How does the process of preservation affect which type of fossil is formed?

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Fossils of Florissant Valley:

Collection Book:

Making Fossils:

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Types of Fossils:

Permineralization:

Compression and Impression:

Results and Conclusions

Verification

Investigator's Signature: _____

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